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# LA SALLE EXPLORER

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Vol. X, No. 2



NOVEMBER 1994

## **MEN'S BASKETBALL LOOKS FORWARD TO 94-95**

With a starting five returning, and some well-regarded freshmen joining the program, the men's basketball outlook at La Salle University appears brighter than last season -- and, according to coach "Speedy" Morris, it should prove to be.

For the first time in his 26 years of coaching high school, women's college and men's college basketball, Morris saw one of his teams fall below the .500 mark, at 11-16. It was also the first time for La Salle to go under .500 since the 1975-76 season (11-15.)

"I didn't like it one bit," Morris said, "and I pray that I will not go through it again."

Actually, in six of those losses, the Explorers were either in the lead during the second half, or wound up losing by four points or less. Small consolation to Morris.

What could turn things around for La Salle, as it enters its third season in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference (MCC) and its 40th in the Philadelphia Big 5 (Temple, Villanova, Pennsylvania and St. Joseph's are those city rivals), is a combination of additional scoring help for Kareem Townes (22.9 points per game) from backcourt mate Paul Burke and forward Romaine Haywood, and improved rebounding and defense from everyone.

Townes, one of the most prolific three-point shooters in the country, had his ups (39 points at Illinois and 38 vs. Notre Dame), and his downs (three games under double figures).

Burke, whose play occasionally tailed off from his sophomore promise of a year previous, was bothered by persistent knee aches, but still managed to reach a career-high 14 assists (vs. Notre Dame) and steals (8 vs. Detroit Mercy), while averaging 13.1 points a game.

## **WOMEN'S HOOPS YOUNG.. BUT EXPERIENCED**

With the core of the successful 1993-94 squad returning this season, La Salle should prove to be a tough competitor. Head coach John Miller has his goals set high for a productive and satisfying season. Miller claims that his goals this season are no different than in previous years. Miller and his Explorers will strive for 20 wins because that seems to be the magic number. According to Miller, "If you achieve 20 wins in a season, everyone always thinks you have a great year." Of course playing a Division I schedule has the ever-luminous thought of possibly going to the NCAA tournament, but Miller feels he really does not have any control over that until the conference championship. However he does feel, if a team is successful enough during the regular season, it may receive an at-large bid, so Miller constantly stresses that to his players throughout the year. Miller also invokes in his team that they should play their best every single game no matter who the opponent may be.

This year, La Salle will have to do without the talents of graduated seniors Mary Heller and Lisa Auman, who combined for 22.8 points and 10 rebounds per game, but Miller is confident that he has a fine nucleus returning. The Explorers return four starters, a number of key reserves, and a talented trio of incoming freshmen all vying for starting positions. This year's team may be young, but they are experienced. Eight of 10 returning players all received a quality amount of playing time last year and all of them will be making significant contributions to the success of this year's squad. Miller intends to put the best players on the floor regardless of position. In fact, he always down-plays the importance of starting. What is more important to him is who finishes the game.

After running the floor from the point guard position last year, tri-captain Allyson Blue (Barnesville, PA) will now return to her natural position of shooting guard this season. Blue sacrificed for the good of the team by playing point, but now

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see **Women's Basketball Preview** - page three





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## BUCK'S BOX by Robert Vetrone, Sr.

Here's a first for you La Salle swim buffs. On December 3-4, the Explorers will host the inaugural Philadelphia Invitational in Kirk Natatorium. Competing will be men and women from Villanova, St. Joseph's, Pennsylvania, Drexel, Delaware and La Salle. Want to know more? Call the La Salle Aquatic office at (215) 951-1520.

### HOOP TRIP

December 30 is just around the calendar so make a note. That's the night there should be a wild La Salle time in Emmitsburg, Md, when "Speedy" Morris' men's basketball Explorers travel there to play Mount St. Mary's.

You all know the Mounts' coach is **Jim Phelan**, a former Explorer star (Class of '51) who took the position in 1954, figured to stay a few years, then search around for other jobs. Forty years later, he's still there, loves it and has propelled the Mount's program into Division I as a member of the Northeast Conference, while coaching his team to 720 victories.

Several players from around the Phelan era -- such as 1952 National Invitation Tournament championship team captain **Charles "Buddy" Donnelly**, and fellow Hall of Athletes honoree **Bob "Ace" McCann** and Phelan teammate -- will certainly be there.

If you're going and want to make sure you get a ticket, call **Peter D'Orazio** at La Salle (215 951-1999). There may be a fans' bus making the trip but that's not definite yet.

The probability is that Mount St. Mary's will be a home game for La Salle in the 1995-96 season. And the last time the two schools met in men's basketball? . . . That would be 1939 and the six-game series (dating back to 1932) is tied at 3-3.

### IRISH STILL COMING, MAYBE

Although Notre Dame officially leaves the Midwestern Collegiate Conference after the 1994-95 school year, the Irish may still make an appearance at La Salle. When La Salle's women's soccer team was out there for a Labor Day weekend game, Explorers' coach **Craig Dorman** and Irish coach **Chris Petrucelli** talked about the teams hooking up if Notre Dame needs a game on one of their Big East swings.

Technically, ND owes La Salle a game at McCarthy Stadium, since the Explorers have gone to South Bend twice in the three years of La Salle's MCC existence, and the Irish visited La Salle once.

### WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

From the Class of '93 and the women's soccer team:

Captain **Laura Cesaro** is girls' junior varsity coach at Nottingham High; **Jeannine Cridge** is girls' varsity coach at Gwynedd Mercy High; **Dawn Jaffee** is girls' assistant coach at Bensalem High.

### ALMOST FOR KEN GLAH

In case you missed the media coverage of the Gatorade Ironman Triathlon, Ken Glah led the endurance test for 122 of the 140 miles. If you're a La Salle track follower, you'll remember Ken as an Explorer in the early '80s.

In the Gatorade Ironman Triathlon in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, Glah, a West Chester resident, fell back to ninth after being overcome by eventual winner **Greg Welch**, of Australia.

As you probably know, the Gatorade is a combination of an 112-mile bike race, a 2.4 mile swim and a marathon.

Don't know about you but we just got tired punching that stuff into the computer. Glah, incidentally, had captured the 1993 Ironman World Series. If you're wondering how long it would take you to peddle that 112 miles, Glah's time was four hours and 37 minutes.

We're tired again but not too tired to offer our congratulations to Ken Glah.

### GREG AT U.A.L.R.

**Greg Moore**, the MCC Track Coach of the Year while coaching at La Salle in 1992, has been named an assistant coach at Arkansas-Little Rock under coach **Rodney Rothoff**. Moore, from Philadelphia's Ben Franklin High, was an All-America runner at Arizona State in 1979 and 1981.

*The invitation is always open from **Bob Vetrone** (a/k/a Buck The Bartender) for you to drop him a note with La Salle information or a request concerning former athletes and Explorer big-wigs. His address is: La Salle University, 1900 W. Olney Ave., Box 805, Philadelphia, PA 19141-1199.*





## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

(Continued from Front Cover)

sophomore Ann Gallagher (Broomall, PA), who has one full year of experience under her belt, will take the reigns. Gallagher led the team with 114 assists last season and Miller is confident that she will continue to learn, develop and excel at that position. However, freshman Katie Wolfe (Ambler, PA) will definitely be challenging Gallagher for the spot. Wolfe, who comes to La Salle as a two-time Northern Division MVP of the Philadelphia Catholic League and was the starting point guard for a very successful Bishop McDevitt team, will certainly receive her share of playing time.

Anyone that is familiar with last year's starting line-up will now ask a relevant question - with Blue making the transition to the two-guard, where does that leave tri-captain Lori Sparling (Carmel, IN)? Probably as a third guard. Miller is certainly not against going with a three-guard offense. In fact, he has done it in the past and has been very successful. Sparling was the third leading scorer last season and will most likely be the main ingredient to La Salle's outside scoring game. Also in her favor is the fact that Sparling is strong enough to play small forward.

The three other players that will also be looking to see time at either the two-guard or small forward positions are sophomores Marnie McBreen (Havertown, PA) and Stephanie Coddens (Detroit, MI) and newcomer Sarah Haynes (New Palestine, IN). What offense John Miller decides to run will determine how these players will contribute. McBreen led the team in three-point field goal percentage, shooting over 40% from that range. She is capable of hitting the outside jumper or taking the ball inside. Coddens has a nice stroke, but is more likely to play small forward rather than guard. However even at the three, Miller would like Coddens to shoot outside more this year. Haynes joins the team after having a superb high school career. As a senior she averaged over 23 points per game and ended her four-year stint as the school's all-time leading scorer and rebounder.

### WHERE IS BILLY ???

In 1989, La Salle's Billy Taylor was voted into the Philadelphia Big 5 Hall of Fame. Billy, originally from Tuskegee, Alabama, he couldn't make the awards ceremonies so his plaque was hung in the athletic offices of the athletic department.

It's still there.

Attempts by the Big 5 and La Salle have failed to, locate Billy, a shooter who scored 1,554 points in three seasons for an average of 18.9.

So, if you have any idea how to reach Billy, let us know. We'd like to see him and hand him his plaque.

At the power forward position, Chrissie Donahue (Broomall, PA) returns as La Salle's top scorer and rebounder. Donahue came to La Salle as a highly touted high school player and proved she had no trouble adjusting to the college style. She was the first rookie ever to start and play in all the games as a freshman under John Miller and also led the team in minutes played. Look for Donahue to really step up her game and lead the team both offensively and defensively this season. Freshman Sarah Weiss (Libertyville, IL) is capable of playing all three positions, but at 6-0, will most likely be used underneath. As a high school senior, Weiss scored 438 points and grabbed 295 rebounds. She shattered the school's rebounding record with her career 835 boards. With her versatility, Weiss should see a significant amount of time on the court. Junior tri-captain Marci Willis (Langhorne, PA) will battle it out with sophomore Margit Rinke (Pine River, MN) for the starting center position. Willis became the starting center seven games into the season last year. After averaging just about 16 minutes a game, Willis ended her sophomore season as La Salle's third leading rebounder. As long as her knees don't give out, Willis will prove to be quite a threat in the paint. At 6-2, Rinke is probably the only true center on the team. She is a hard worker who was without a doubt the most improved player on the team last year. Hopefully Rinke will take her game to the next level this season.

Walk-ons Patrice McGovern (Voorhees, NJ) and Tina Wahl (Ambler, PA) both saw limited action last year, but when they did compete, they really gave it their all. McGovern is a guard, while Wahl is a forward. They combined for eight points and six rebounds and each of them averaged a little under 2 minutes a game. They will continue to provide support to make the other players better.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

(Continued from Front Cover)

Haywood, playing his first varsity season after sitting out 1992-93 because of Prop 48, suffered through the inconsistency that plagued the team. Part of that inconsistency stemmed from his inability to escape personal-foul trouble. But efforts like a 17-point second-half in a victory at James Madison, 17 in a win over Notre Dame, and 15 in a loss at Illinois were examples of what could be in store for this, his junior year.

Derick Newton and Jasper Van Teeseling were both starters as freshman and probably will start the season as such but Morris hopes some of the freshmen show enough to push most of the holdovers.

One of the newcomers is Olof Landgren, 6-10 forward from Sweden who has played well on the Swedish Junior National Team. Morris also sees help from Brian Flickinger, a 6-9 forward who can score, and 6-4 Mike Gizzi, who will work out of the shooting guard and small forward positions.



**The La Salle Explorer** is a publication of the La Salle University department of intercollegiate athletics

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Ticket Office:	951-1999

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS FOR LA SALLE ATHLETICS

**Dec. 3-4 SWIMMING:** La Salle hosts the first annual Philadelphia Invitational at the Kirk Natatorium. Competing teams will include Villanova, St. Joseph's, Pennsylvania, Drexel, Delaware and La Salle. (Contact the Aquatic Office, 215 951-1520).

**Dec. 28 - 29 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:** La Salle Invitational Tournament at Hayman Hall 7 and 9 p.m. Featuring La Salle, Richmond, Morgan State and Boston University.  
**FOR INFORMATION :** (215) 951-1605

**Jan. 7, 1995 ATLANTIC CITY:** La Salle vs. Massachusetts, MEN'S BASKETBALL, 6:45 PM, Atlantic City Convention Center. **TICKET INFORMATION:** (215) 951-1999. **PARTY TIME:** Alumni office: (215) 951-1535.

### **La Salle University Explorer News**

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